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advance.

Book and Job Printing

PROMPTLY AND NEATLY EXECUTED.

POETRY.

My own New-England Home.

BY WM. H. CRANSTON.

A wanderer in this Western clime,

I've roamed his forests o'er,

And walked at eventide along

Lake Erie's quiet shore.

There's beauty in these noble trees,

That tower to heaven's blue dome,

But yet, I warmly, dearly love

My own New-England Home.

I love her ancient rock-bound shore,

Her granite hills so bold,

Her stony roads and silvery streams,

More precious are than gold.

I gaze upon these beautiful fields,

Where thousands yearly come,

But still I would not give for them

My own New-England Home.

The bounteous harvests that they yield,

Enrich the miser's store,

But I would sooner live in want

Upon my sea-girt shore.

Than feel that here my life must pass,

Though wealth and friends should come;

For these could not the idol bring,

My own New-England Home.

Should honors gather o'er my head,

And fame her chaplet lend,

With all that man could ask on earth,

Or hope for to the end—

I would not give, for all of these,

Though richer, far, to some,

That proud, time-honored heritage,

My own New-England Home.

There's beauty in the western skies,

These lakes, and fields, and streams,

Which fill a poet's rapturous soul

With purest, brightest gleams.

But still I love the scenes of youth,

Where sleep my sire's in trust,

And I would mingle mine within

New-England's hallowed dust.

THE STORY TELLER.

Dyed in the Wool.

BY JOHN JONES, JR.

An acute disciple of Blackstone, in one of our

Atlantic cities that shall be nameless, had, by a

course of active pettifoggery, succeeded in filling

his pockets. Full pockets enabled him to assume

an imposing style of living, and the reputation of

having gotten rich by practice at the bar, very

naturally increased the number of his clients, and

swelled the amount of his fees. S—soon

stood, 'A Number One' among his legal brethren.

If any one had a pretty hard case for litigation,

S—was his man; for if any body could gain it

for him, he could. He not only understood all the

quicks and turns in the law, but was fertile in

original expedients. The goodness or badness

of a cause was nothing to him; his business was

to gain it for his client by any means he could

use, fair or foul.

At the age of forty-five, from some cause or

other not clearly ascertained S—became relig-

iously disposed, and joined the church. An

influential man like him was not long suffered to

remain inactive in the specialties of the church.

At the first fitting opportunity he was made a

vestryman.

S—had always been looked upon in the

community as a 'pretty hard case,' and the reputa-

tion by no means belied the truth. The gain-

ing of one like him over to the cause of religion,

was therefore a source of no little congratulation

to those who regarded things spiritual and pious

—and was looked upon as quite a triumph over

the enemy of souls. There were some, howev-

er, who shrugged their shoulders, and professed

to have just about as much confidence in him

now as ever they had, and to regard his religion,

to use one of their elegant expressions, as 'all

in my eye.'

Matters professional went on pretty much in

the old way. Religion, in the eyes of S—

was too sacred a thing to bring down into the

world, where it must suffer violence, and be, in

consequence, brought in to disrepute. He, there-

fore, kept his religion nicely laid up in lavender,

for Sunday, when it was brought forth unspotted

from the world.

About two years after S—joined the

church, it was thought by those who had affairs

in charge, that they ought to have a new and

more imposing edifice than the one they were

shipping in, which was, to say the truth, rather

an ancient affair, and by no means such as the

wealth of the congregation entitled them to have.

S—was prominent in the matter—in fact,

he was the prime mover, and headed a subscrip-

tion list with a thousand dollars.

In due time the church was finished, and an

elegant edifice it was. When the building was

projected and plans called for, sixty thousand

dollars was to be the maximum of cost. But the

building committee and the architect man-

aged to run the cost up to a hundred thousand

dollars, and the church in debt about seventy

thousand. This caused all concerned to feel,

as might be supposed, rather serious on the sub-

ject. A debt of seventy thousand dollars was

rather a serious affair, viewed in any light.

The first thing to be done was to have a sale

of the pews. This proceeded rather slowly, and

the prices at which they sold were by no means

as large as had been anticipated. From this

source only twenty thousand dollars came. An

extra subscription was then tried, but only ten

thousand dollars could be raised.

In this aspect of affairs, S—, who was

chairman of the building committee, and to whom

was mainly chargeable the excess of cost over the

first estimate made for the church, felt called

upon to devise some means of liquidating the

heavy debt.

'It could be done easily enough, if those who

are able would come forward and buy pews at

fair prices instead of renting them,' he said to a

fellow vestryman.

It was freely admitted that this would certain-

ly change the aspect of affairs. But, if members

preferred renting to buying, nothing could be

done.

'They ought to be made to buy,' said S—

warmly. 'There is Preston, worth thirty or forty

thousand dollars at least, who, instead of pay-

ing a couple of thousand dollars for the pew his

family occupies, is very well content to go it at a

yearly rent of a hundred dollars. It is to bad I

would not give much for his interest in religion,

if he has no better way of showing it.'

'He certainly ought to buy,' was unhesitating-

ly replied.

'He shall buy,' said S—, snapping his

fingers, as a sudden thought struck him.

'Do you think you can make him?'

'Yes.'

'How? What means will you use?'

'Never mind about that. But, mark my words

for it, next Sunday Preston will be the owner in-

stead of the mere tenant of his pew.'

'I hope so.'

'You shall not hope in vain.'

The lawyer went to the office and sat down to

think. After about half an hour's cogitation,

he said, aloud,

'Yes, he's the man.'

And immediately writing a note, despatched

it by his office messenger. In twenty minutes a

well dressed man entered, and bowed to the law-

yer with a respectful, or rather, deferential air.

'Take a chair, Jones—I want to talk to you,'

said S—.

The man seated himself.

'You know we've managed to get confounded-

ly in debt with our new church.'

'Yes; so it seems,' was the assenting reply.

'And some how or other, we must manage to

get out of debt.'

'If we can.'

'Well, I think we can, if the thing is done

rightly. I believe I have hit upon the mode.'

'Ah! Well, you are fortunate. Nobody else

could have done it.'

'So I flatter myself. But my trade makes me

a little sharper than common people, you know.

There are many persons here. But who are

able to buy wool? purchase instead of renting

the debt would be paid off in a week.'

'No doubt of that.'

'Very well. That is admitted. Now my plan

is to make them buy.'

'If you can.'

'And I can, with a good fellow like you to

aid me. And I think your affection for the

church is strong enough to induce you to lend a

willing hand to work. Debt is a terrible thing.

'Indeed it is! But how can I aid?'

'Are you willing?'

'Oh, certainly.'

'Very well. Then, without any body's know-

ing what we are about, or suspecting any con-

cert between us, we can make some forty or fifty

pew renters become purchasers, and thus pay

the whole debt.'

'How? How? I am serious to know that?'

'Very well, I will inform you. There is Pres-

ton to begin with. His pew is a very eligible

one, and if he gives it up, he can't possibly get

another without going far down the aisle; for ev-

ery good pew in the church is either rented or

sold. Now his pew is worth at least a thousand

dollars.'

'Yes, and he ought to pay that for it. He is

able enough.'

'So I think. Very well. Now I will place

two thousand dollars in your hands, and do you

go to the treasurer who has charge of the matter,

and offer to buy the pew, saying that you are

ready to pay that price down for it, cash. He

will, of course, tell you that he must see Pres-

ton first, and give him the option of buying it. And

Preston, rather than let you have the pew, will

buy. D'ye see?'

'Capital. It's the very thing!'

'Isn't it?'

'If you ain't a lawyer, dyed in the wool, there's

no mistake,' said the man, leaning back in his

chair, and giving vent to a hearty burst of laugh-

ter.

'I consider myself hard to beat in any thing,'

returned S—. 'But will you join me in the

matter?'

'Certainly. I'm ready to serve the church in

any way that a humble individual like me can do

it.'

On the next Sabbath, Preston sat in his own

pew, sure enough; and the treasury of the church

was in a better condition by just the sum of two

thousand dollars. S—was delighted at the

success of his scheme, and tried it on two other

pew renters, who were entire strangers to each

other, during the week, and with the desired re-

sult. Jones got some private abuse for his part

of the business, and was told that he had better

pay his honest debt before he undertook to buy

a high priced pew; but he put it all in his pocket

and went ahead.

'You are determined to have somebody's pew,'

said, remarked the treasurer, when Jones ap-

peared the fourth time.

'I wish a good pew, and am willing to pay

a good price for it,' he replied. 'I don't covet

anybody's pew. But I believe no one has a

right to the property he merely rents.'

'Oh no. You have a right to purchase any

unsold pew in the church.'

'So I supposed.'

But Jones didn't get the pew for which he had

offered a liberal price. The occupant preferred

the alternative of buying to being turned out.

And thus the thing went quietly on, no one

suspecting the agency at work, until pews enough

were actually sold to pay off the fifty thousand

dollars debt that had remained after the first sale

of pews and subsequent extra subscription.

'Didn't I tell you that I would make Preston

buy his pew?' said S—to the vestryman to

whom he had first hinted his intention of putting

some unknown scheme into operation.

'Yes. But who made thirty or forty others

buy pews? Preston's case is a drop in the bucket.'

'I did.'

'You?'

'Certainly I did. The church owes me a ser-

vice of plate for paying off its debt, and I believe

I will claim it.'

'And you are entitled to it, if the thing has

been done fairly.'

'You shall judge of that yourself.'

And S—, whose notions of right and

wrong were founded upon rather extraordinary

models, related the trick he had played upon the

pew renters, and ended by saying—

'Now, wasn't that capital?'

'I believe what people say of you is correct,'

returned the vestryman with unexpected sobriety.

'And what is that, pray?'

'Why, that you are a lawyer dyed in the wool

and proof against all spiritual bleaching salts—

(good morning)'

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